

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Rene Chiocca  
SERIAL NO.: 10/578,147 CONFIRMATION No.: 8817  
FILING DATE: March 23, 2007  
TITLE: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR CONDITIONING NUCLEAR FUEL  
ASSEMBLIES WITH DOUBLE CONFINEMENT  
EXAMINER: Chang, Hanway  
ART UNIT: 2881

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Commissioner for Patents,  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**APPLICANT'S COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

These comments are responsive to the Notice of Allowance mailed on April 22, 2010.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowance of Claims (i.e. claims 1-24). Applicant respectfully urges that additional and/or alternative reasons for allowance may exist apart from the arguments or remarks made by the Examiner and/or the Applicant during the prosecution of the above captioned case and thus are not limited to those statements. These reasons may each be independently sufficient to establish the patentability of one or more of Claims (i.e. claims 1-24).

Applicant respectfully reserves the right to introduce, articulate, or otherwise comment on any such additional reasons for allowance as may be appropriate in any future proceedings concerning the one or more claimed embodiments.

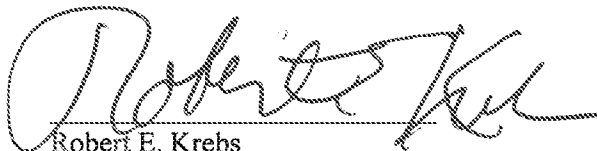
Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment to our Deposit  
Account number 50-3557.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON PEABODY LLP

Dated:

15 July 2010

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Krebs", written over a horizontal dotted line.

Robert E. Krebs  
Reg. No. 25,885

NIXON PEABODY LLP  
P.O. Box 60610  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
Tel.: 650-320-7700  
Fax: 650-320-7701